



A Bicentennial Celebration:

1824-2024

Mooreville, Indiana

By Cauli Le Chat



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Celebration:
1824-2024
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Indiana**

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Feline Roving Reporter

Mooresville Public Library

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**I'm Cauli Le Chat, feline roving reporter
at Mooresville Public Library, in
Mooresville, Indiana.**



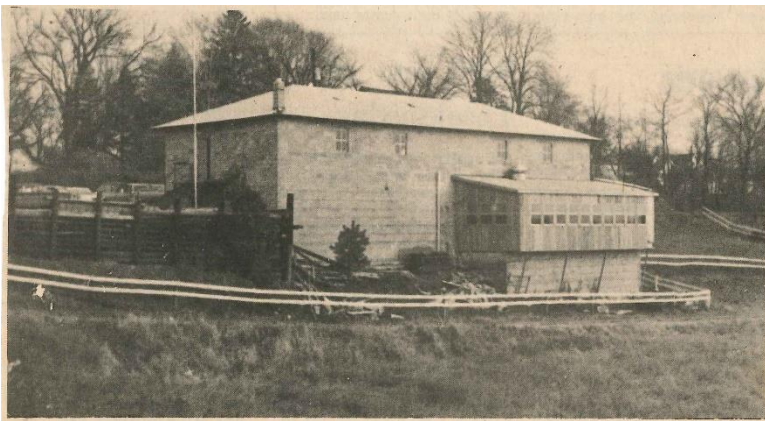
**Did you know the Town of Mooresville
will be 200 years old in 2024?**

**The Town of Mooresville was founded
by Samuel Moore in 1824.**



Samuel Moore was born in North Carolina in 1799. His family moved to Washington County, Indiana in 1818 because they were Quakers and were opposed to slavery.

In 1822, Samuel Moore decided to start a business on his own, so he moved to Morgan County, Indiana, settling in Brown Township. He built a log cabin to live in, as well as a trading post and a mill on nearby White Lick Creek. In the mill, he ground corn and wheat to make flour, and he cut trees to make lumber for building.



Samuel's trading post was on a hill close to where Mooresville's V.F.W. Post is located today. (This is what the V.F.W. Post looked like in 1970).

Samuel Moore sold and traded all kinds of things in his store. Some of his customers paid in silver, and others paid with “barter” items, such as deer and raccoon skins, ginseng, bees wax, and buckhorn.

Business was good, and Samuel Moore prospered. In 1823, he decided to start a town where people could live and work together. So Samuel bought 160 acres of land (for \$2 an acre), 20 acres of which was on a hill about a half-mile north of his trading post. In 1824, he divided the 20 acres into lots that he sold to people who built log cabins to live in and buildings where they could buy and sell things.

Here is the layout (called a “plat map”) of the village he named Mooresville that shows the lots and the street names in 1824.



Once the Town of Mooresville started, Samuel Moore built a general store at the center of downtown. He was in business there until 1867, when his

son-in-law, David Fogleman, took over the business.



This is what Samuel Moore's general store looked like in 1885. It was called the I.O.O.F. building. A parade of Civil War veterans marched through downtown, so a photographer named J. P. Calvert took their picture.

A fire destroyed the I.O.O.F. building in 1881, but it was rebuilt.



Today, the place where Samuel Moore's general store stood is a park to celebrate Mooresville's Bicentennial. A stone (called the "Founder Stone") marks the spot close to where the store stood.



Mooreville Bicentennial Park & Founder Stone (2017)

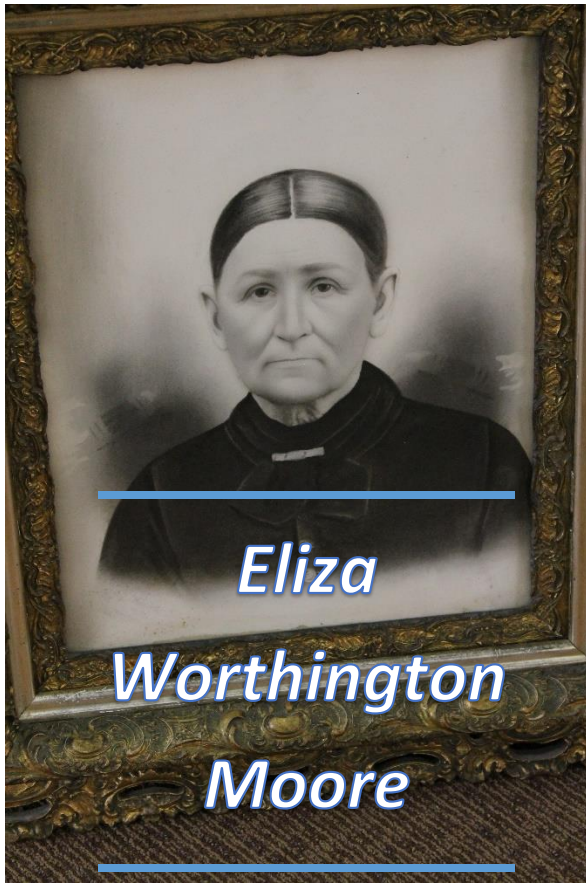


Fire at Mooresville.

We learn verbally that a large portion of the town of Mooresville, in Morgan county, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday night last. As yet, Thursday, we have but very few particulars.

Article in the *Indiana State Sentinel*, November 29, 1842

In November 1842, a fire swept through Mooresville, destroying all but one or two houses and buildings. Thankfully, no one was hurt. Most folks lost everything in the fire. For those families who couldn't afford to rebuild, Samuel Moore paid for, and rebuilt, their homes and business buildings free-of-charge. The town was saved, thanks to Samuel's generosity.



Eliza Worthington (Moore) was born in Pennsylvania in 1803. She grew up in Madison, Indiana. In 1828, she married Samuel Moore. Eliza Moore founded Mooresville's Methodist Episcopal (M.E.) Church in 1839.



Mooresville M.E. Church, built in 1839 on West Washington Street

Eliza helped start schools in Mooresville in 1832. Eliza wanted every child in Mooresville to be educated. Mooresville's first brick schoolhouse stood on East Washington Street across from where the Citizens Bank is located today. A

stone marks the spot where the school stood.



In 1860, Eliza and Samuel Moore helped build the Mooresville Academy School on North Monroe Street, which was run by the Mooresville Friends Church until 1883, when it became Mooresville's first public school. Starting in 1861, hundreds of students from all across Indiana came to the

school to study and learn. It was one of the first high schools in Indiana. The Academy School still stands today as a reminder of the importance of education in our community.



The Academy School in the 1860s-1870s

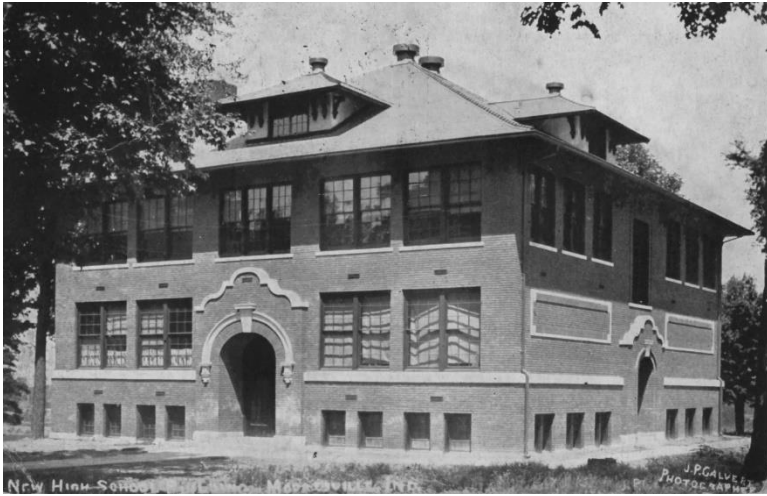


**This is what the Academy School classroom looked like
in the 1860s**



The Academy School in 2018

In the early 1900s, Mooresville needed a bigger school building, and so the town built Mooresville High School in 1909. A gymnasium was added next door in 1920. The high school was replaced in 1959 by an even bigger school on Carlisle & Indiana Streets. The 1909 building was used as a junior high (middle school) from 1959-1966, then, from 1967-1971, it was used as extra classrooms for Newby Memorial Elementary School, which was built in 1936 and is still in use today. The 1909 building was torn down in 1971, but the gym still stands.



The 1909 Mooresville High School building (1914 photo by J. P. Calvert)



Mooresville High School & Gymnasium (1921 photo by Manley Brown)

Gymnasium as it looked in 2009 (top)

Mooreville High School (1959 dedication) (bottom)



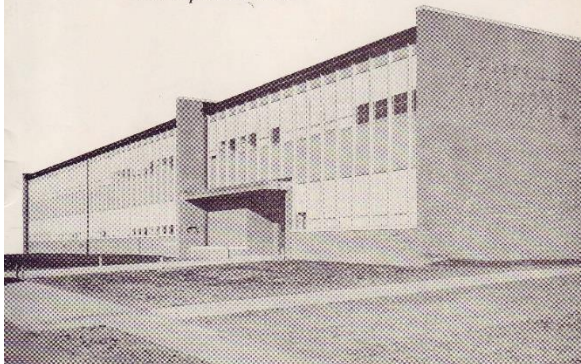
MOORESVILLE CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL

MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

DEDICATION

NOVEMBER 29, 1959

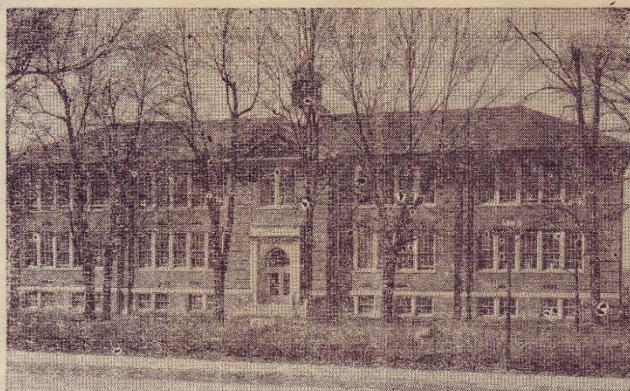
*Enter to learn . . .
... depart to serve*



Mooresville Public Library

Mooresville Schools

INTRODUCING



WILLIAM AND MILTON NEWBY MEMORIAL SCHOOL

OF

The Mooresville Schools

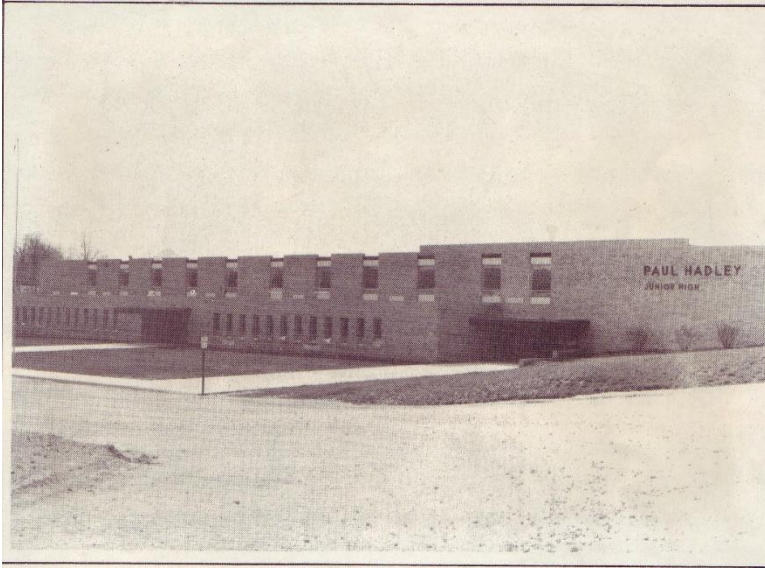
MARCH 30, 1937

Newby Memorial Elementary School (1937 dedication)



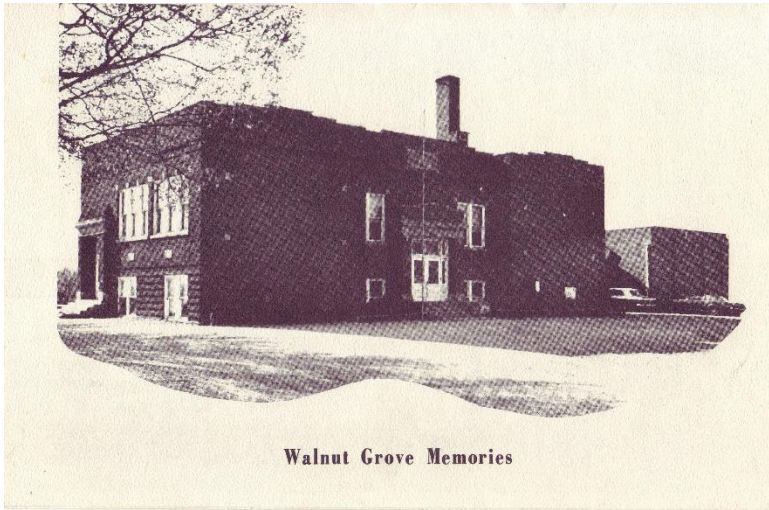
Newby Memorial Elementary School as it looked in 2009

In 1966, the townspeople built a new junior high school on Carlisle Street named after Paul Hadley, who designed the Indiana State Flag and lived for many years in Mooresville. It is still used as a middle school today.



Paul Hadley Junior High School as it looked in 1967

Mooreville has several other elementary schools and private schools, most of which are still used today.



Walnut Grove Memories

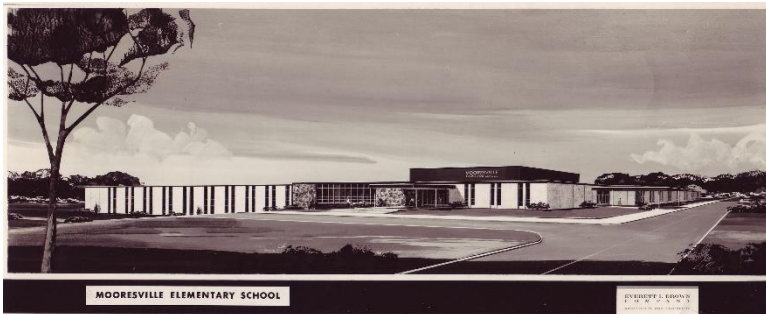
**Walnut Grove School as it looked in the 1930s
(On Kitchen Road, it was used from 1921 until 1971)**



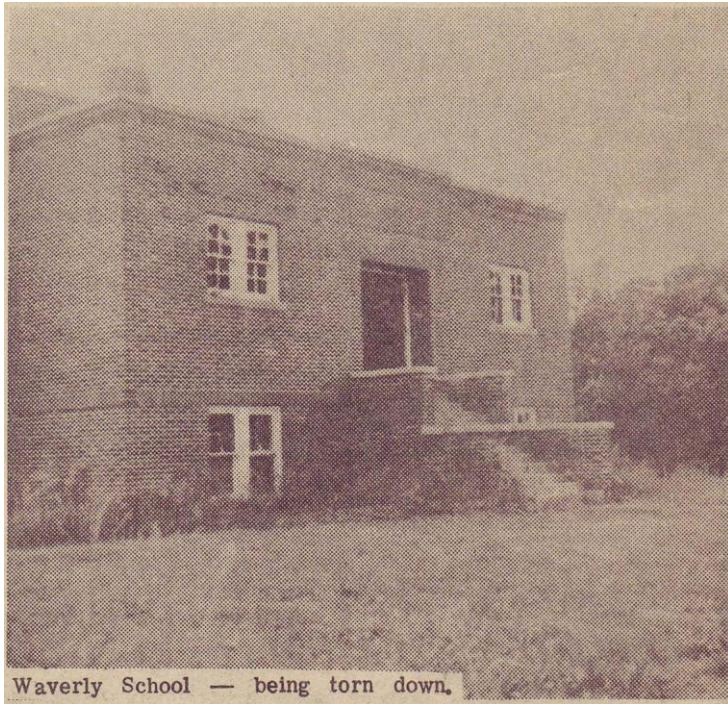
**North Madison Elementary School as it looked in 1970
(Built in 1959 on Hadley Road; still in use today)**



**Northwood Elementary School as it looked in 1970
(on North Indiana Street, built in 1963 and still in use)**



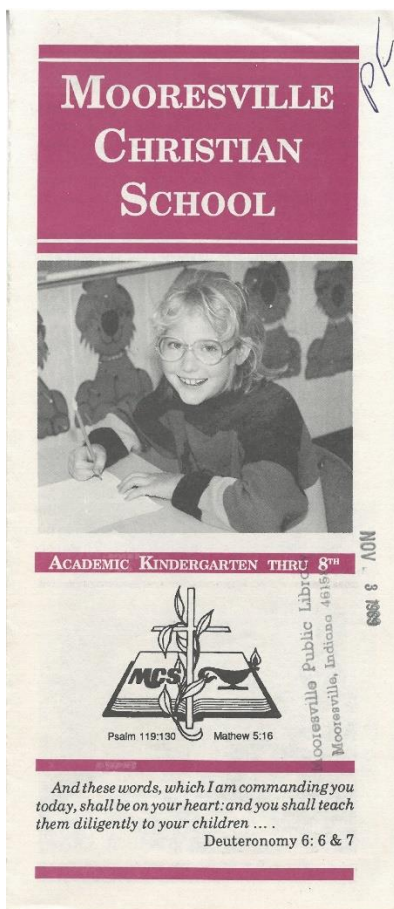
**Neil Armstrong Elementary School on State Road 144
(opened in 1971; still used today)**



Waverly Elementary School as it looked in 1966

(just before it was torn down—built about 1917)

**A new school was built nearby in 1964 and is still used
today**



**Mooresville Christian
School/Academy (opened
in 1975)**

**(at Grace Church on State
Road 67 & Allison Roads,
until 1994)**

**Now located on State
Road 144 (Built 1998; still
in use)**

Paul Hadley was born in 1880. He moved to Mooresville with his family as a young man, living in town most of his life. He was an artist, teacher, and museum curator; he designed the Indiana State Flag in 1916 (adopted as official Hoosier flag in 1917).



Indiana State Flag



**Paul Hadley in 1888
(left) (both photos by J.
P. Calvert)**



**Paul Hadley
in 1905
(right)**

Paul Hadley created many beautiful paintings, some that are now hanging in Mooresville Public Library. Here are a few of them.



In 1974, to celebrate Mooresville's 150th anniversary, librarian Bonita Marley designed a Town Banner. The flag now flies in Mooresville's Bicentennial Park and is on permanent display at Mooresville Public Library.



Mooresville Town Banner

(created by Bonita Marley)

Bonita Marley (1969 photo, right) was director of Mooresville Public Library from 1961 to 1984. She was born in 1906.

Bonita as a child (photo below taken about 1914)



Bonita grew up in a large house on North Indiana Street in Mooresville. Her father, Henry Conduitt, built the home in 1906. In 1936, the house became a hospital until 1971. In 1981, a fire burned the building down.



**Conduitt House on North Indiana Street in Mooresville
(as it looked in 1911; photo by J. P. Calvert)**

You can learn more about the history of Mooresville, Indiana by visiting the Indiana Room at Mooresville Public Library. It's a fun place to explore!



**Thanks for reading my book,
Your friend, Cauli Le Chat**